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To most readers the subjects of greatest interest in Seistan are the truly wonderful number of ruins and the present political situation. The ruins are mentioned frequently by Mr. Tate, but are nowhere described in such a way as to give any adequate idea of how they look, by whom they were occupied, and especially why they were abandoned and the land left desolate. To-day the population is estimated at 160,000 people, before the days of Tamerlane at 250,000, and previous to that it must have been much greater. It would be hard to find a subject of greater interest than the cause of this change, but our author scarcely touches the matter.

The reason for the long sojourn of the British Boundary Commission in Seistan was that the Helmand River, like all other streams, builds up its flood plain in the immediate vicinity of the river, and thereby causes its own course to shift to one side or the other. Inasmuch as Seistan is the only place for hundreds of miles where water is available, it is peculiarly valuable to both Afghans and Persians. The river was supposed to be the boundary between the two nations, and when it changed its course, there naturally arose a bitter dispute. If Mr. Tate could have explained the variations in the river's course and told us how they have influenced the people of Seistan directly and the political relations of Persia and Afghanistan, and of England and Russia indirectly, he could have written a book of great general interest and of high geographic value. In fairness to him a word of explanation should be added. For some reason, implied but not stated, he has not felt himself free to enter into a discussion of many of the most interesting problems connected with his work. He refers again and again to the vast amount of data collected by the Commission as to all manner of subjects, but fails to satisfy the thirst for information that he thus arouses. Presumably, the data are all embodied in official reports. Apparently, Mr. Tate knows a great deal which the world would also like to know, but which he has not deemed it best to tell.

ELLSWORTH HUNTINGTON.

La Patria. Geografia dell' Italia. Opera compilata dal Prof. Gustavo Straforello. Provincia di Torino. Seconda edizione interamente riveduta e ampliata a cura del Cav. Giuseppe Isidoro Arneudo. iv and 736 pp., Maps of the Province and City of Turin, 204 Illustrations and Index. Unione Tipografico-Editrice Torinese, Turin, 1907.

This large work is a detailed account of Turin Province, dealing with its history, geography, products, industries, commerce, educational work, arts, monuments, public edifices, benevolent institutions, etc. The theatres, libraries, prominent engineering works and other phases of the Province come in for description and copious illustration. The many pictures from photographs are good, though not produced in a superior manner. Few books about a small part of the world are packed with more information.

Tevere. Nuova Edizione riordinata e ampliata con Atlante. Memoria 26 bis della Carta Idrografica d'Italia. xii and 486 pp. Ministero di Agricoltura, Industria e Commercio, Rome, 1908. L. 6.

A thorough revision and enlargement of the earlier Memoir on the Tiber River published in 1898. It is accompanied by an atlas showing all phases of the river and its basin. This is the latest of a series of exhaustive Memoirs on the hydrography of Italy which the Government began to publish in 1888. The